

Marubeni asked Total to reimburse it for its share of the expenses; it refused. Instead, Total sued in Texas court for a declaration that it is not liable. Marubeni timely removed the case.

4. *Jurisdiction.*

Marubeni says that this court has jurisdiction over this case under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act because it is about its current operations to decommission two wells on the Outer Continental Shelf.¹

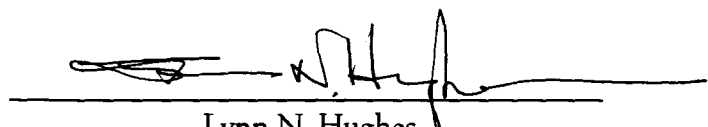
Despite pleading that this case (a) arises in connection with deepwater drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, and (b) involves the decommissioning of two wells on the Outer Continental Shelf, Total says this court does not have jurisdiction under the Act. It argues that repayment of money is neither an operation nor does it involve exploration or production of minerals.

Total drilled wells on the Outer Continental Shelf; Marubeni is decommissioning them. Drilling and decommissioning are operations under the Act.² They are inextricably linked. Total's claim that it owes no obligation to Marubeni would not have arisen but for the wells' existence – the wells that it drilled. This court has jurisdiction.

5. *Conclusion.*

Operations in connection with an oil well start with drilling, and end with a plugged well and decommissioned equipment. The motion to remand will be denied.

Signed on November 21, 2016, at Houston, Texas.



Lynn N. Hughes
United States District Judge

¹ 43 U.S.C. § 1349.

² *Amoco Production Co. v. Sea Robin Pipeline Co.*, 844 F.2d 1202, 1207 (5th Cir. 1988); *EP Operating Ltd. P'ship v. Placid Oil Co.*, 26 F.3d 563, 567 (5th Cir. 1994).